(b) what are details of the plans in terms of identification of Sanskrit Institutions, facilities, projects and budget for this activity during eighth plan; and

(c) how does funding compare with the projects being conducted abroad in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There were no formal and systematic studies for the development, understanding and processing of Indian languages during the Seventh Plan period though there were some efforts in this direction. However, in order to conduct language processing activities with excellence and competence, the Department of Electronics (DOE) is bringing together the language institutions and organisations with expertise in computers through the Technological Development of Indian Languages (TDIL) programme during the Eighth Plan period. An exploratory project at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, an autonomous society under the Department of Electronics, in the area of Sanskrit processing and specifically for computational rendering of Paninian grammar has been initiated.

In addition, five more institutions have so far been identified for projects related to information processing in Sanskrit. These are:

(i) Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi.

(ii) Academy of Sanskrit Research, Melkote.

(iii) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.

(iv) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati.

(v) Gurukul Kangdi University, Haridwar.

A total budget of Rs. 17 crores has been projected for the entire TDIL programme.

(c) Several indological departments in universities, research institutions and organisations abroad are working in this area. The overall extent of funding to such projects is not known and therefore, any comparison with funding abroad is not possible.

Officers while in service accepting jobs with international agencies

1694. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on Government officials from accepting consultancy or employment while in service with the international agencies like U. N. and UNICFF, with when they have had official dealings;

(b) names of officers who have obtained employment consultancy with such international agencies like UNICFF while still in service;

(c) whether any Secretary to the Government of India sought or obtained such employment/consultancy with UNICFF recently;

(d) does such soliciting of jobs violate the dignity of our country; and

(e) steps being taken to stop such employment etc. sought with international agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Government officers who are directly dealing with an international organisation in a coordinating or nodal capacity are not allowed to take up assignments in the Secretariat of the concerned organisation for a period of two years after they have relinguished charge of their posts. In very exceptional cases, a departure may be made from this policy with the approval of the Prime Minister.

(b) Such information is not centrally available.

(c) No Secretary to the Government of India has obtained such employment/ consultancy with UNICEF recently.

(d) In view of (c) above, this question does not arise.

(e) Recently instructions as mentioned in reply to part (a) above, have been issued, These instructions categorically reiterate the Government's policy, that its officers should not lobby for international assignments.

Hike in the prices and shortage of essential drugs

1695. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in Business and Political observer dated 13th July, 1991 to the effect that the cost of bulk drugs will rise along with retail prices apart from shortage of essential drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of price revision applications are pending with Government; and

(c) whether Government would associate consumer and public Health voluntary groups in any changes in the price structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes sir.

(b) Consideration of price revision applications is an ongoing process. Recently the associations of the Drug Industry have represented to the Government seeking across the board 25 per cent escalation in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations. This is in the backgrouud of rise in the cost of production of bulk drugs and formulations owing to the recent adjustment of the exchange rate of Indian Rupee against foreign currencies and other increase in costs.

(c) Government is aware of the views of consumer and public health voluntary groups.

Drugs needed for National Health Programmes

1696. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations against the omissions of National Health Programmes and drugs needed for these programmes under Category-I of Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, the number of representations received upto 30th June, 1991 and what action has been taken so far; and

(c) what is the present position and by when rectification would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) A large number of representations for inclusion/exclusion of drugs from price control including inclusion of more drugs under Category I of the DPCO, 1987, have been received, mostly from the Members of Parliament, after the announcement of list of price controlled drugs. These are under examination of the Government.

Separate ration cards for buying sugar

1697. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:

Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering issuing of separate ration cards to those who buy only sugar from fair price shops and not other items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to poor quality of rice and wheat available at fair price shops, the general public are reluctant to buy these items from the fair price shops;